

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

-Acts 2:1-3

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift...The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord, Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

-Revelation 22:17, 20-21

I'm not one to offer spoilers on movies, but as this one came out back in 1989 I figure if you're going to see it, you will have by now. Toward the end of *When Harry Met Sally*, Harry (played by Billy Crystal) is explaining to Sally (Meg Ryan) why he ran to where she was at a New Year's Eve party. He explains that it has nothing to do with it being New Year's Eve, or any other act of desperation or loneliness, but that he had sprinted to her because, "When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible!"

After all the other things in life that had taken his attention and distracted him – work, hobbies, other relationships, etc. – Harry realizes the one thing, the one person who is most important, and he wants the rest of his life with her to start in that moment.

Similarly, in *The Greatest Showman* (the 2017 fictionalized story of P.T. Barnum, played by Hugh Jackman), Barnum realizes that all he's been chasing and achieving has been a distraction from what he's truly desired: his family. In the musical rendition, he proclaims, "From now on, what's waited 'til tomorrow starts tonight! Let this promise in me start, like an anthem in my heart, from now on!"

We in the church recently celebrated Pentecost, the almost violent in-breaking of the Spirit of God in the lives and hearts of the disciples (now apostles). It was a moment in which everything changed, and would not be the same again. It was the moment in which the apostles

realized their desire, not as something made complete, but as something begun and continuing "from now on."

We so often think of Pentecost as that great event that happened generations and years ago, in another time and place far removed from us. Historically, this may be true, but Pentecost is an on-going reality, something begun and something presently happening. Today is Pentecost, as you read this. Tomorrow is Pentecost, regardless of what your day may hold. Because Pentecost is the beginning of the fullest realization of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom which has been glimpsed and proclaimed by generations of faithful throughout time – from the apostles to the Revelation of John to the early church leaders all the way to us. We see and live into the Kingdom; it starts afresh with us, it starts now, and continues from now on.

We still yearn for and desire to see the Kingdom of God fully realized and made known, and those days are surely coming, says the Lord. And even in the "not yet," we celebrate the "now," recognizing that what we so often long for has indeed already begun, and we are living it out. What a joyous, Pentecost day today is, after all!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JUNE, 2021

Sunday, 6 June 2021

Holy Communion

“2nd Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20 * 2nd Reading: Mark 3:20-35

Sermon: "Earthly Minds"

Sunday, 13 June 2021

“3rd Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 * 2nd Reading: Mark 4:26-34

Sermon: "Incomparable"

Sunday, 20 June 2021

"Father's Day"

“4th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 17:32-49 * 2nd Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: "Faith Over Fear"

Sunday, 27 June 2021

“5th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 * 2nd Reading: Mark 5:21-43

Sermon: [TBA - Guest Preacher]



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

<p>Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Becky Scott Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) Verne & Clara Smith Peggy Allen Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Etta Holc Jerry Hasky (health issue) Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma) Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues) Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns) Jane & Bob Jones (health issues)</p>	<p>Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue) Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from surgery) Sharon Reed & family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue) Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue) Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue) Randy Warthan (health issue) Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab) Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues) Pam Landrum, Doris Harmison's daughter (orthopedic issue) Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue) Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue) The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues) Judy Recher (recovering from surgery) Linda Johnson (ankle fracture) Family/friends of Kenneth L. Figg, Jr. (d. 5/12/2021)</p>
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UPDATED WORSHIP GUIDELINES...

GREETINGS SAINTS AND FRIENDS OF GREGORY MEMORIAL!

Your Session has been diligent in faithfully assessing how we continue to worship and move forward, and now especially, in light of the updated guidelines and proclamations from both CDC and local and federal leaders. Please note the following:

IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED,

- You no longer need to wear a mask when entering/exiting, or moving about the Sanctuary. Of course, if it is your personal comfort level to do so, then please be happy in doing so.
- We will no longer physically block off every other pew. We encourage you to sit where you are comfortable sitting, and with whom, but please be respectful of others as we make this transition --- there may be some who are still more comfortable sitting with a bit of distance, and that's ok.
- At this time, we will still refrain from singing hymns together, though Session is discussing this aspect in an ongoing conversation. We will also be exploring other musical options in the meantime. I know this is disappointing to many of us, but please continue in grace and understanding. Thank you.

IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED,

- Please be responsible and continue to wear a mask when entering/exiting, or moving about the Sanctuary. And if there are any questions you still have about the vaccines, please contact Jason. Your confidentiality is assured, and he is happy to be of assistance in your decision-making.

IF YOU ARE FEELING "UNDER THE WEATHER",

- Please know that we join with you in spirit, and wish you well, but you are encouraged to stay home and take care of your own health. Or, if you feel that you can still be out and about, and attending worship, please continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

Love and Peace to You All!

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will continue offering on-line worship each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m., via FaceBook Live (from the church's Facebook page) and Zoom (use Meeting ID: 756-330-772, Passcode 6300, or those without reliable internet may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772, Passcode 6300).

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

We continue to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month with exceptions as noted. Our next communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, June 6**. However, for July we will celebrate communion on **Sunday, July 11**. If you are worshipping in-person, the elements will be prepared ahead of time and made available to you as an individual serving. If you are worshipping with us at home/on-line, I invite you to have ready a bit of bread and juice during these services, so that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

NOTES FOR JULY:

- Guest preacher (Rev. Roger Gench) for Sunday, July 4
- Holy Communion Service (usually on 1st Sunday) has been moved to Sunday, July 11.
- Community Movie Night on Wednesday, July 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Session Meeting (usually 3rd Sunday) has been moved to Sunday, July 25.

THOSE WHO SERVE

The Worship Committee has temporarily suspended publishing the Sunday Servants schedule due to on-going Pandemic constraints.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Honoring 'Dear Ol' Dad'...

As far back as 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recommended that "Father's Day" become a national holiday. But it wasn't until 1966 that President Lyndon B. Johnson, through an Executive Order, designated the third Sunday in June as the official day to celebrate fathers everywhere.

"We wonder why they say when a child laughs, 'He belongs to Daddy'; but when he has a sagging diaper that smells like a landfill, it's 'He wants his mother!'" --- *Erma Bombeck*

"The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents, the second half by our children." --- *Clarence Darrow*

A Sin To Golf On Sundays? ...

After church one Sunday, one of the congregants walked up to the minister and asked, "Pastor, is it a sin to play golf on Sunday?"

"My friend," said the minister, putting his hand on the man's shoulder, "I've seen you play golf, and it's a sin ANY day."

A terrible golfer was playing a round of golf for which he had hired a caddie. The round proved to be somewhat tortuous for the caddie to watch, and he was getting a bit exasperated by the poor play of his employer.

At one point the ball lay about 180 yards from the green and as the

inept golfer sized up his situation, he asked his caddie, "Do you think I can get there with a 5-iron?"

To which the caddie replied, "Eventually."



Heard It All Now ...

The Montana State Department of Fish and Wildlife ("They") is advising golfers to take extra precautions, and be on the alert for bears while playing on Gallatin, Helena, and Lewis and Clark National Forest's golf courses.

They advise golfers to wear noise-producing devices such as *little bells on their clothing* to alert, but not to startle the bears unexpectedly.

They also advise golfers to carry *pepper spray in the case of an encounter with a bear*.

They say that it's also a good idea to watch for signs of bear activity on the courses, and they even recommend that golfers learn to recognize the difference between Black Bear and Grizzly Bear droppings: Black Bear droppings are smaller and contain remains of nuts, berries and possibly squirrel, rabbit

or gopher fur, while Grizzly Bear droppings contain *small bells, golf gloves, sunglasses and other similar golf items, and usually smell like pepper spray.*)>:

And So Rambles The Idle Mind ...

I was thinking about how today's cell phones that are being worn clipped to belts or purses appear to be so much like status symbols. And how I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

You always see on those Employment application blanks that they ask you who to notify in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "A Good Doctor"!

I was thinking about how people seem to read their Bibles a whole lot more as they get older. It just dawned on me: *They're cramming for their finals!*

As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

Enjoy your days and love your life, because life is a journey to be savored!



GATEKEEPER: TBA

JUNE, 2021

* *Date of Scholarship Committee meeting - TBA*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6p Cong. Care Com.	2	3 2p Church cleaning	4	5
6 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. & Holy Communion	7 1p Worship Com.	8 7p Missions Com 7p Outreach Com.	9	10 2p Church cleaning	11	12
13 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	14	15	16	17 2p Church cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	18	19 Juneteenth
20 Father's Day 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	21	22	23	24 2p Newsletter out 2p Church cleaning	25	26
27 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. (Guest Preacher, TBA) 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering	28	29	30 Committee reports due			

JULY'S UPCOMING DATES:

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- Session Meeting (usually 3rd Sunday) has been moved to Sunday, July 25.

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

STAMP

JUNE NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG

We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva
Worship 11:00 A.M.